

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Wednesday January 18, 2006, the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Brad Molnar, Vice Chairman
Doug Mood, Commissioner
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

Commissioner Robert H. Raney was absent but left his proxies with Commissioner Jergeson.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney
Utility Division

(23) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Qwest/telecom industry draft bill for 2007 session:

Commissioner Schneider moved to send a memo to the ETIC explaining the draft bill is substantively the same as HB 539 which the PSC opposed in 2005 and attaching the PSC's analysis of HB 539. Commission Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GREG JERGSON, Chairman

BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Judy Scheier
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Thursday January 19, 2006, the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Brad Molnar, Vice Chairman
Doug Mood, Commissioner
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

Commissioner Robert H. Raney was absent but left his proxies with Commissioner Jergeson.

APPEARANCE
Scott Fabel, Utility Division

(24) In the matter of CenturyTel - Docket No. N2005.12.175, on December 16, 2005, Century Tel filed tariff transmittal No.05-08. This filing revises the Predesignated Interexchange Carrier (PIC) Change Charge. This change is due to FCC's Order in Presubscribed Interexchange Carrier Charge in CC Docket No. 05-53, released February 17, 2005.

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve CenturyTel's Tariff Transmittal No. 05-08 in Docket No. N2005.12.175. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(25) In the matter of Qwest - Docket No. N2006.1.1, on January 3, 2006, Qwest filed Tariff Transmittal 06-01. Qwest previously notified the Commission that on February 24, 2005, the FCC issued its decision in the matter of developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime T-Mobile et al Petition for declaratory ruling regarding incumbent LEC Wireless Termination Tariffs, CC Docket No. 01-92. To comply with the FCC's order, Qwest requested to withdraw Section 20, Facilities for Radio Carriers. References to DID numbers for CMRS, currently residing in Section 20, will be moved to Section 5; Direct-Inward-Dialing (DID) Services.

Commissioner Mood moved to approve Qwest's Tariff Transmittal 06-01 in Docket N2006.1.1. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(26) In the matter of Docket No. T-05.38.PCN - on October 17, 2005 Brandon Bugge dba Bugge's Construction CleanUp, Kalispell, Montana, submitted an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity. The application was noticed to the public on November 8, 2005, and protests were received. On January 9, 2006, Mr. Bugge submitted a written request to withdraw his application and close the docket.

Commissioner Schneider moved to close the docket based on the carrier's withdrawal. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(27) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes:

Commissioner Mood moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of January 9, 2006. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh, Legal Division

(28) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Northern Telephone Cooperative, Inc. - Docket No. D2005.12.178:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to suspend the Jan 1, 2006, local number portability (LPN) obligation of Northern Telephone Cooperative until such time as the FCC completes review of the impact of its LNP rules on small businesses as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). Northern shall abide by the terms of any order out of the FCC with respect to the FCC's pending docket on compliance with the RFA within 30 days of such order or any time frame set forth in the order, whichever occurs later. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Mike Lee, Utility Division
Martin Jacobson, Legal Division

(29) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Qwest - Federal Universal Service Charge - Docket No. D2005.6.105:

Commissioner Schneider moved to adopt the Notice of Commission Action in Docket No. D2005.6.105, as drafted. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schneider moved to issue the Notice of Investigation Clarification with the cite to FCC and subject to minor editing. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Al Brogan, Legal Division

(30) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of NorthWestern Energy - D2005.5.88 - In the Matter of NorthWestern Energy's Application for Electric Supply Deferred Cost Account Balance and Projected Electric Supply Cost:

Commissioner Schneider moved to schedule the hearing in Docket No. D2005.5.88 to commence on March 22, 2006. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(31) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of NorthWestern Energy - Docket No.

N2005.12.172 - December 2005 Electric Default Supply Procurement Plan:

Commissioner Schneider moved to issue a Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment in Docket No. N2005.12.172, an opportunity for NorthWestern Energy to have ten business days to reply to those comments and the establishment of a placeholder for a public forum hearing as needed within 2 weeks of receipt of the Company response. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(32) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Grid West membership application:

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve the revised draft of the cover letter on the Grid West membership application. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GREG JERGESON, Chairman

BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Judy Scheier
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)